

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. Jay S. Samant for suggesting the research problem and guiding my work throughout the period of investigations.


It is my duty to acknowledge the valuable help and encouragement given by Prof. A.T. Varute, Head, Department of Zoology, for which I am thankful to him.

I am very much thankful to Prof. K.C. Malhotra, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta for his valuable help and constant encouragement in the field work. My thanks are also due to Dr. N.K. More and Mrs. A.J. Samant for their valuable suggestions and help in the academic matters during the period of research.

Prof. M.S. Prasad, Director, and Mr. Uday Desai, Programmer of the Shivaji University Computer Centre have extended all the possible help in the computer analysis of the data for which I thank them.

My thanks are due to all my colleagues on the Western Ghats Research Project, Ms. Bharati Desai, Ms. Raju Shinde, Mr. BMH Ahamed, Mr. Kiran Shinde, Mr. C.D. Pawar and Ms. C.N. Sathe who were always ready to render their assistance and cooperation which proved very helpful in completing my work.

I acknowledge with thanks the award of Junior Research Fellowship by the Department of Environment, Govt. of India which enabled me to work on the prestigious Western Ghats Research Project in the Department of Zoology. Lastly I am thankful to Shri Ghatge for the timely and efficient typing of the manuscript.


(V.P. SURWASE)